

**A. CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Presently Amended) A method of preparing naturally occurring Troponin I for purification, which method comprises protecting free sulfhydryl groups of Troponin I under reducing conditions, wherein the free sulfhydryl groups are protected by sulfitolysis.

Claim 2 (Canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein sulfitolysis comprises reacting Troponin I with sodium sulfite.

4. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Troponin I is expressed in a bacterial expression system.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacterial expression system is an *E. coli* expression system.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises purifying the sulfhydryl group protected Troponin I.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the Troponin I is purified by chromatography.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, which comprises purifying the Troponin I under non-reducing conditions.

9. ((Previously Amended) The method according to claim 6, which further comprises deprotecting the sulfhydryl groups from the purified Troponin I.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

13. (Previously Amended) A method of purifying naturally occurring Troponin I, which method comprises subjecting Troponin I comprising sulfhydryl protecting groups to chromatography to purify the sulfhydryl group protected Troponin I.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the sulfhydryl groups are protected by sulfitolization.

15. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein sulfitolization comprises reacting, denatured Troponin I with sodium sulfite.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, which comprises subjecting the Troponin I to chromatography under non-reducing conditions.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the Troponin I is expressed in a bacterial expression system.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the bacterial

expression system is an *E. coli* expression system.

19. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the chromatography is an anion exchange.

20. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the chromatography is hydrophobic interaction.

First, Claims 1, 3-9 and 13-20 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1-9 and 13-20 of copending application serial no. 10/287,188 (the application should be 10/287,118). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the provisional rejection as a Preliminary Amendment was entered upon filing of application serial no. 10/287,118. Claims 1-9 and 13-20 are no longer pending, Claims 21-32 are now pending. The Claims are not identical. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Further, Applicants are submitting terminal disclaimers.

Likewise and secondly, Claims 1-9 and 13-20 of application serial no. 10/255,244 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Only Claims 10-12 remain pending. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Further, Applicants are submitting terminal disclaimers.

### III. CONCLUSION

The application is believed in a condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request such action. Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner. Please call the below undersigned attorney at (302) 933-4034. Please charge deposit account number 02-2334 for any required fees and credit any credits and for the difference between a one-month extension and a two-month extension, as Applicants have already paid for a one-month extension in the Reply of August 15, 2003. Further please charge deposit account 02-2334 for two terminal disclaimers.

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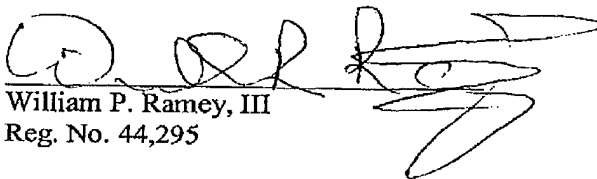
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Date: 10/15/03

Sincerely,



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